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Dated: 5-20-05

Signature: Abby Dirakiu

(Abby Berghella)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

John F. Shanley

Application No.: 10/057,414

o.: 10/057,414 Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: January 25, 2002 Examiner: Thaler, Michael H.

For: EXPANDABLE MEDICAL DEVICE WITH

TAPERED HINGE

Confirmation No.: 9725

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated January 25, 2005 for which a response was due on April 25, 2005. A One-Month Extension of Time accompanies this Amendment thereby extending the due date to May 25, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.